

NEW YORK HERALD.

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VOLUME XXVII.—No. 2

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIBBON'S GARDEN, Broadway.—HARLEQUIN.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—Dor-My Neighbor's Wife.

LALLAGE'S THEATRE, No. 84 Broadway.—Road to Ruin.

LAURA KRENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—Little Fox-ROBINSON CRUSOE.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—JOHN PAULING—KING—ARTIST DOUGLAS.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—SECRETARY'S NATIONAL CIRCUS, AMUSEMENT AND SWINGING.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—Day and Evening.—Ostrichs—Hippopotamuses, Walrus, and other Curiousities.

BRANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanic's Hall, 472 Broadway.—UN BALLO IN MASCHERA.

HOOLY'S MINSTRELS, Supplement Institute, No. 623 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.

MELODION CONCERT HALL, No. 539 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, MUSICALS, &c.—DANIEL.

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 543 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, MUSICALS, &c.—MORSE, DEBACH, &c.

GAITEIES CONCERT ROOM, 516 Broadway.—DRAWING ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS, BALLS, PASTIMES, &c.

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 444 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, &c.—STANFORD.

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 48 Bowery.—BELLINI, DONIZETTI, &c.—NEW YEAR'S GALL.

PARISIAN CARNET OF WONDERS, 565 Broadway.—Open daily from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M.

NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 516 Broadway.—BELLINI, &c.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, January 8, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

The largest foraging party which has yet been sent from the army on the Potomac went out yesterday towards Peacock Hill, Lewinsville, Fairfax Court House and Vienna. It consisted of three full brigades of General Smith's division, supported by a strong force of artillery. A large quantity of hay, oats and corn was obtained, but no brush with the enemy took place, as was anticipated by the troops. The enemy were seen, however, in pretty large force, encamped near Hawkhurst Mill, but as General Smith's orders from headquarters forbade him to take any aggressive action which might provoke a general engagement, and as the rebels made no show of attacking his advance guard, no collision took place.

No reports had reached Washington from the Lower Potomac yesterday, except that large quantities of floating ice was blocking up the river. No demonstrations were made by the rebel batteries. We have further intelligence from Frederick, Md., concerning the late attack of the rebels at Hancock, which confirms the statements that the rebels under General Jackson had retired after their ineffectual shelling of the town. The rebel force consisted of ten regiments, together with a large baggage and supply train. The future movements of General Jackson were unknown.

Reinforcements of men and abundant stores of provisions are being forwarded to our troops at Port Royal and Key West from this city by transport ships. The steamer City of New York and the schooner James M. Moore left yesterday morning for Port Royal laden with provisions. The United States steamer Connecticut is taking in powder at Ellis Island for the same place. The steam transport Marion is loading with provisions and army stores at pier No. 4, and when ready to sail, which will be in about a week from now, will take three hundred horses for the First Massachusetts cavalry, her destination also being Port Royal. The Ericsson will sail for Key West and Fort Taylor to-morrow, with the Ninety-first New York Volunteers, now stationed at Governor's Island. The recent victorious advance of our troops at Port Royal demands immediate reinforcements, and we hope that General Sherman will be sustained with troops and stores without delay.

By a despatch from Cairo, Illinois, we learn that Flag Officer Foote with the gunboats Essex, Lexington and Tyler, made a reconnaissance down the Mississippi river to a point within two miles of Columbus, yesterday morning. He went within 200 yards of the range of the rebel batteries, and on returning was fired upon by the rebel gunboat Mohawk, but her shots all fell short. The reconnaissance was considered highly satisfactory, as all the points on the river were accurately examined.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday petitions for the emancipation of slaves, and for the exchange of prisoners of war, were presented and referred. The bill regarding the appointment of sutlers was reported back by the Military Committee, with amendments, and ordered to be printed. Notice was given of a bill to punish frauds on the Treasury, and a bill abolishing the franking privilege was introduced by Mr. Powell, of Kentucky. A resolution was adopted, instructing the Naval Committee to inquire how the practice has prevailed in the navy of making purchases through other than recognized agents, and if such have been made, whether larger prices have been paid. The Secretary of War was requested to report the aggregate number of three years volunteers in service, and in what classes they serve, &c. The bill to increase the number of cadets at the West Point Military Academy was then taken up, discussed, and rejected by a vote of twelve yeas against twenty-five nays. Mr. Powell's bill, introduced at the extra session, to punish frauds on the Treasury, was taken up, and referred to the Judiciary Committee. Mr. Wilson's bill providing for the punishment of army officers, by dismissal from the service, who shall obtain fugitive slaves, was also taken up. A motion by Mr. Salsbury, of Delaware, to indefinitely postpone the subject, was defeated—yeas thirteen, nays twenty-three. The further consideration of the bill was then, on motion of Mr. Carlile, of Virginia, postponed for the present. The report of the Judiciary Committee, in favor of Mr. Stanton's claim to a seat as Senator from Kansas, was taken up, and pending the question the Senate adjourned.

sachusetts, justified the capture of the rebel envoys, and said that England did us grievous wrong in demanding their surrender. A lengthy, lively and interesting discussion ensued, and finally the documents were referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Civil Appropriation bill, when the discussion on the Trent affair was continued till the adjournment, without action being taken on the subject before the committee.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The Legislature of the State of New York commenced its session for the year 1862 at Albany yesterday. Beyond the routine of organization, but little business was transacted in either house. In the Senate, Lieutenant Governor Campbell, ex officio presiding officer, called that body to order and administered the oath to the members, when an immediate organization was effected. The privileges of the floor were extended to Colonel Mulligan, the Hero of Lexington, and he took a seat among the Senators. A few petitions were presented; among them one to prevent the sale of swill milk, and one in reference to fortifying the town and port of Cape Vincent, the northern terminus of the Rome and Watertown Railroad, on the St. Lawrence river, which latter was referred to the Committee on Public Defence. In the Assembly all the members excepting one were present. The Secretary of State administered the oath to the legislature, and they immediately proceeded to the election of officers. On the first ballot Henry J. Raymond was elected Speaker, and the other portion of the organization was effected without delay. The House did not transact any legislative business. The Governor's Message was received and read in both houses. It will be found in full in our columns this morning.

We publish to-day a lengthy report of the excellent address of the Hon. Edward Everett on the origin and character of the war, delivered last evening at the Academy of Music, before the Mercantile Library Association, and a very large audience. The first part of the address is particularly devoted to a review of the causes of the war, beginning from the nullification system, which prevailed many years ago. The lecture was listened to with marked interest, and, though hurriedly compiled, the report we publish will give a fair idea of the purpose of the honorable gentleman to those who had not the pleasure of hearing him.

To-day is the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans.

Augustus W. Bradford, the Governor elect of Maryland, will be inaugurated to-day at Annapolis. His term of office is four years.

A great Union mass Convention will be held to-day in Hartford, Conn. It will be addressed by Hon. Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee.

We continue in to-day's HERALD the publication of copious extracts from late Southern papers. The Richmond Examiner of the 30th ult. ridicules the idea of a Southern tariff on importations in a time of blockade and war, and regards such a measure as absurd and imbecile. It pays a high tribute to the federal blockade, and insists that neither Southern ingenuity, statesmanship nor pride has produced a single measure for its counteraction. The Richmond Dispatch of the 31st ult. has a cotton article, in which it says that England "must have cotton that now lies landlocked in the Confederate States, or her subjects will break out in rebellion." The same paper makes complaints in *extenso* about frauds in the Confederate commissariat. The Mobile Evening News of the 28th ult. has an account of an engagement near Mobile between the United States gunboat New London and the rebel gunboat Florida. It took place on the 24th ult. Of course the rebel craft was victorious (!). A rebel schooner was captured off Fernandina, Florida, on the 27th ult., while attempting to run the blockade of that port.

The Albany Journal says that the people will stand by General McClellan against all precipitators, intermeddling Congressional committees and buncombe speeches of abolition agitators.

A despatch to a Philadelphia paper says that General Sigel has tendered his resignation.

The Ninth New Jersey regiment, now stationed at Meridian Hill, opposite Washington, has been assigned to General Burnside's expedition, on account of its being composed of men from Tom's river and Great Egg Harbor, who are mostly used to the management of surf boats.

The Democratic State Convention of New Hampshire will meet to-day in Concord, to nominate a candidate for the office of Governor of the State.

Advices from the Sandwich Islands to the 23d of November state that the coffee crop promises an unusually large yield this year. The natives of Kan are extensively engaged in planting cotton, for which the traders pay eight cents per pound, cash.

In consequence of the heavy fall of snow on Monday, it was generally supposed that skating would not be allowed in the Park yesterday. Contrary, however, to this expectation, the ponds were cleared of snow to an extent sufficient to accommodate far more than the number of visitors who appeared. During the day only six thousand persons enjoyed the pleasure of skating. The ice was cleared by half-past six o'clock P. M., to enable the scrapers and brooms to be used with such vigor as to clear off every impediment to good skating, and to-day we may expect a clear field of ice. Weather permitting, skating by moonlight will be allowed until half-past ten o'clock this evening, and also on every other fair evening during the season. The snow from off the ponds of the Brooklyn and Williamsburg skating clubs was also promptly removed, and the paths leading to each swept clean, so that visitors could reach the ice with comfort. These ponds were well patronized yesterday.

The sleighing season has commenced with vigor, and the Central Park was visited yesterday by eight hundred and sixty-one sleighs and cutters. The wheel vehicles were among the things that were, and even equestrians were but few and far between.

United States Commissioner Osborn yesterday issued a warrant for the arrest of John Dean, a British subject, claimed under the Extradition treaty, on a charge of having murdered a policeman, named Roscoe, on the island of Jamaica. The accused was taken into custody by Officer Patterson, and committed for examination.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday a Grand Jury was qualified for service during the present term of the court, and Judge McCunn delivered to them a charge embracing the usual subjects. Daniel Sullivan, indicted for killing John Cunningham by stabbing him with a knife, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the fourth degree. Mr. Hall stated to the Court that the evidence was of such a nature that if the case was tried before a petit jury the verdict would be for a low grade of manslaughter, and he therefore accepted the plea which the prisoner was disposed to make. Judge McCunn took the papers in the case for examination, and remanded the prisoner for sentence. Joseph Johnson, indicted for burglary in the first degree in entering the dwelling house of Philip Holtz, No. 456 Eighth avenue, on the night of the 12th of August, with the intent to steal, was convicted of an attempt at larceny. He was sent to the penitentiary for three months, and ordered to pay a fine of \$100. Michael Sullivan and Julia Conolly, indicted for the murder of Timothy Sullivan by hitting him on the head with a club, inflicting wounds which caused his death, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the fourth degree, and were sent back for sentence.

There are twenty-three newspapers now published in Kansas, of which two are daily and the

remainder weekly and semi-weekly. Two of the number are printed in German.

The ice was stationary at Montreal on the 3d inst., and the ice bridge across the St. Lawrence is now fully formed.

The cotton market was quiet yesterday, while prices were unchanged. The sales embraced about 200 bales, closing on the basis of 26c. a 37c. for middling uplands. Some small change lots were picked up at a trifle under the inside figure. The floor market exhibited more animation, and sales were rather larger, and the better class of brands were some better. Wheat was firm, especially for prime qualities, with rather more doing. Corn was in better request, and closed at an advance of about 1c. per bushel. Pork was heavy and lower, with more doing at the concession. Sugar was quiet steady, with sales of 300 to 400 hds., 1500 boxes and 2,500 bags of New Orleans. Coffee was in good request, with sales of 3,000 bags common Rio at 18 1/2 c., 1 1/2 c., and 300 do. at 19c. The stock embraced \$2,310 bags of Rio, and a total of all kinds equal to \$2,395 bags. Java was held at 25c. a 25c. Freight was firmer, with a fair amount of engagements. There was a speculative movement in whiskey, growing out of the agitation of a proposed excise tax on all distilled liquors. The sales embraced 1,800 bbls. at 22c., which was an advance of between 1c. and 2c. per gallon.

The Small Possibilities of Congress and the Great Necessities of the Country.

Promptly after the recess of the Christmas and New Year holidays we had supposed that the House of Representatives at Washington, charged with the exclusive authority of initiating the ways and means for the relief of the Treasury, would enter upon the consideration of some financial scheme for raising the sinews of war, for maintaining the credit of the government, and for saving the country from the dreadful calamities, at this crisis, of an irredeemable and constantly depreciating fiat-plaster currency. But what is the fact? Promptly after the meeting of the House on Monday last the disastrous battle at Ball's Bluff and the "almighty nigger" are brought upon the carpet and monopolize the day's debate.

Mr. Roscoe L. Conkling, of New York, rose to a question of privilege. The House, he said, had passed a resolution requesting the Secretary of War to inform the House whether any steps have been taken to ascertain who are responsible for the disastrous affair at Ball's Bluff; and the Secretary, for an answer, had sent in the information that the General-in-Chief had expressed the opinion that an inquiry into the subject would not be just yet compatible with the public interest. Mr. Conkling contended that this was trifling with the dignity and privileges of the House, and so he moved a preamble reciting the resolution heretofore adopted, concluding with a resolution that the answer to the first inquiry is neither responsive nor satisfactory to the House, and that the Secretary of War be directed to return a further answer.

Upon this proposition the day was exhausted, beginning with an elaborate exposition by Mr. Conkling of the whole budget of blunders committed on our side, in the fatal movement upon Ball's Bluff, including some very broad insinuations of treachery against General Stone, and some suspicions that even General McClellan desires rather to conceal than to make known all the responsibilities connected with this disastrous affair. The sensible arguments of Messrs. Richardson and Crittenden against this proceeding had no other effect than to bring out the inevitable Lovejoy with his infallible nigger. He said "the regular military officers are more in the way of an advance than any other class;" that "the idea is if we don't hurt anybody the rebels will return to their allegiance;" that "the fear in which we stand of injuring the twin relic of barbarism paralyzes the whole army;" that "the reason why we are not successful is that we stand before an incensed God;" that we are false "to the principles of justice and truth, and those of human equality—namely, liberty throughout all lands, and to all the inhabitants thereof." Of course, with the everlasting nigger thus introduced, Ball's Bluff for a time was forgotten in another useless, and worse than useless, discussion of Southern slavery.

And thus from day to day, since the first Monday of December last, the time of the House has been frittered away upon this ruinous abolition idea of changing this war for "the integrity of the Union" into a fanatical crusade for the extirpation of slavery. Of the six hundred and fifty thousand men in arms against this Southern rebellion, there are not, perhaps, five thousand who enlisted to fight upon this abolition platform. Our soldiers have volunteered to fight for the restoration of our Southern revolted States to the Union, leaving slavery to take its chances. We are fighting to put down Southern white rebels, and not against the hundreds of thousands of Union men throughout the South who are awaiting the day of their deliverance from Jeff. Davis; we are fighting to save the South, not to destroy it; our object is to restore the blessings of our federal constitution to the rebel States, and not to transfer them from one irresponsible military despotism to another.

We have an army and a navy sufficient for the immediate work in hand; we have our army and our navy so organized and distributed as to indicate the inevitable overthrow of this rebellion, and in a very short time. But the money question is assuming an alarming shape. Sixty millions of cash receipts make a sorry figure against six hundred millions of expenditures! The receipts of the Treasury must be increased to the extent of a hundred and fifty millions, and that right soon, or we shall be deluged by a general outpouring of shillabasters, and the fearful revulsion of 1837, ten times magnified in its evils, will again come upon us. The solvency and safety of the Treasury, our currency, our credit, our commerce, as a people—our very existence as an independent nation—are all now depending upon the action of Congress on this all important money question. We have plenty of money and means in the country—they are at the service of the government; but if Congress shall fail to adopt the necessary measures of taxation, and such acts for the regulation of the currency and commerce of the country, and for the encouragement of its suffering business classes, as the crisis demands, we shall before long be suffering all the evils of a sweeping financial revolution.

We earnestly call upon the House of Representatives, therefore, to drop the "almighty nigger" for a while, and to devote a few weeks to the "almighty dollar." It was the long purse of England which conquered the great Napoleon, and the heaviest purse in this contest will be more than a match for the heaviest artillery. But we have both, and Congress, having provided the artillery, should now leave it in the hands of the army, and turn with special attention to the relief of the Treasury and the country upon the money question. The crisis demands a new financial system, graduated upon the scale of saving our credit and currency, our

commerce and business affairs, in the midst of a domestic war, calling for an expenditure of six hundred millions a year.

Let us first save the government and re-establish the Union; for then it will be time enough for a permanent settlement of the slavery question. Surely we have no time now to be debating a war of negro emancipation, when not only Southern liberty, but the higher principles of Northern liberty, will depend upon the wise or foolish prosecution of this war. Small politicians and fanatics, with their contemptible party and personal prejudices, have appropriated too much of the time of this responsible Congress. The Treasury and the country now demand some attention to such subjects as our finances, our currency, our commerce, and our business men brought to bankruptcy by this rebellion.

The Governor's Message—An Encyclopedia of Popular Knowledge for New York.

We think we might safely offer a prize, for every one who will read through from beginning to end, at one sitting, the Message of Governor Morgan, to which we devote so large a portion of this day's triple sheet. Should any individual have the perseverance and self-denial to do so, it ought to be worth a thousand dollars to him, more or less, for it contains a compendious array of information *de omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis*, unequalled in modern political literature. It will prove a perfect *vaude meum* to members of the Legislature, and an appropriation ought to be made immediately to supply it with an index. All that is needed to make it complete, would be a prefatory history of the world, from its creation up to the present time, with exegetical annotations on the fall of the angels, and various kindred points of metaphysical-historical philosophy. It is an excellent message, an astonishing message, and should be duly embalmed in a properly sized folio volume.

Beginning with the war, and an extended panegyric of the devoted loyalty of the citizens of New York, the Governor's Message passes on to congratulations upon the prompt and universal execution of the laws, during the year 1861; analyzes judiciously, for the space of a column, the management of the canals—closing with certain wise recommendations with respect to tolls, and the laws regulating repairs of sections; parenthesizes largely about railroads, and their effects political and financial; wades fearlessly into the subject of the general fund debt, supplying admirable suggestions and copious information respecting past, present and future taxation; discusses defects in the assessment laws; alludes "incidentally," "as a matter of duty," to sundry details enlarged on in previous messages; demands, with cogent and satisfactory reasons, a repeal of the acts of 1860 and 1861 in relation to capital punishment; elaborates the views of the Chief Magistrate of the State concerning the pardoning power; discourses with able amplifications, and manifold useful hints, with reference to prison discipline and the necessity of the appointment of a commission to inquire into monetary and penal abuses; cautiously praises the system of State education and adds sundry recommendations; devotes a lengthy paragraph to the Banking Department, and another to insurance companies; takes up, *seriatim*, the Onondaga salt works, the report of the Superintendent of Weights and Measures, the affairs of the Commissioners of the Board of Emigration, and by a natural process annexes to the latter the best mode of treating yellow fever, and our manifold Quarantine troubles. The Metropolitan police, which is said to be "equal to the objects sought in its establishment," the report of the Board of Commissioners of Pilots; the Port Warden; Central Park; Deaf and Dumb Asylum; Asylum for Idiots and Lunatic Asylum; Inebriate Asylum; Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents; Western House of Refuge; Department of Public Charities and Correction, none of them can complain of having been neglected by Governor Morgan. In the elaborate paper before us, and most of them come in for a large share of approbation. Agricultural interests and boards of supervisors; village charters, and town elections; the suffering poor in Kansas, and the Pacific telegraphic line; the increased representation of this State in Congress, and the direct tax of \$2,603,918 66 imposed by the government of the United States upon the State of New York are attended to with equal thoroughness. The Governor wisely recommends that this indebtedness should be assumed by the State Legislature, and paid by a suitable bill tax on property. The necessity of fostering, locally, the military spirit of the age is dwelt on, and the closing third part of the message is then devoted to a history of the hostilities between North and South, and the noble sacrifices pecuniary and physical that New York has made to procure the restoration of the Union.

Governor Morgan very patriotically and judiciously omits any direct reference to the slavery question. He propounds no pet theory of emancipation or colonization, and seems generally willing to trust in the sagacity, promises and wisdom of the President and his advisers to bring the war to a successful close, without endeavoring to complicate issues or aggravate the causes of discord already existing in the country. Neither does he say anything of note, with respect to the city charter, and the duty of the Legislature of the State in the premises. Probably foreseeing that there will be quite enough talk about it, in Congress and elsewhere, without his assistance, he also avoids any mention of the ninety-five thousand dollars paid to an agent of the Navy Department in this city during the four months previous to last September, for services in making purchases for the general government. The Van Wyck Committee, and Confidence Cummings' fifteen days at the public crib are not alluded to directly or indirectly, but, all things considered, this is perhaps not surprising.

The public will rejoice that the troubles of the war, and the anxieties inseparable from his position as Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the State of New York, have not compelled Major General Morgan to engross so much of the time of Governor Morgan, as to oblige him to neglect proper care for his interests—on paper. His Message will commend itself, as judicious, moderate and profusely statesmanlike, to its readers, and will be found valuable practically to those who may choose to render themselves masters of its details. The Governor will, soon find, however, a more practical field for exercising his functions as Chief Magistrate of the State. The present Legislature bids fair to be one of the most abominably corrupt that has ever disgraced the State, and there is little question that intrigu-

will be forced through the Senate and Assembly of the most pernicious character. Symptoms are already manifest of a profuse expenditure of the public money, for iniquitous, jobbing purposes which can have no effective check except in the veto power with which the Executive is wisely endowed by the constitution. Governor Morgan should be prepared to use his prerogative fearlessly and boldly. He should determine to withstand, by every means under his control, the torrent of corruption that is about to break loose. He is himself an upright man, and his integrity is questioned by no one. If the agency of the Navy Department had been entrusted to his care, the United States Treasury would be \$95,000 richer than it is at this day. But if on this score he is individually irreproachable, he must prove himself equally so as the sheet anchor of safety of the whole Commonwealth, in a period of too general venality and disorder. By a wise, bold use of the veto power, Governor Morgan can, during the coming few months render incalculable services to the State of New York.

Government and the Press.

The death of Prince Albert is likely to result in many changes in the British government. The composition of the Cabinet will undoubtedly be affected by the event, and many discordant elements will arise requiring the exercise of the royal prerogative. The pillar of the throne has been removed, and there is no knowing what events may follow. It is well known that Prince Albert was the constant adviser of the Queen in all matters of State, and that it was owing to his excellent influence that the Crown, during the present reign, maintained that desirable position towards all parties which incurred the displeasure of none. The Queen now stands alone, without an adviser; but, as a woman and a sovereign, she will be unable to act without one, and the future of her illustrious career will entirely depend upon whom she may select as her guide. The Prince of Wales may possibly succeed in filling his father's place as the adviser of her Majesty, or it may be that she may marry again; for there are many in Germany of royal blood who would be exceedingly glad to step into the shoes of the late consort. But in any case the Prince of Wales cannot fail to be brought more prominently forward than hitherto.

In the settlement of the various difficulties that may present themselves the press will, without doubt, play an important part, and it is fortunate that the British government does not ignore its power, but directs it to its own advantage. In this respect it is like Louis Napoleon; and therefore it is that in England and France we see a well managed and highly appreciated press contributing to the strength of those governments, and not, as formerly, to their disadvantage. Louis Philippe and Guizot did not know how to treat the press. They foolishly despised it and ignored its influence, a consequence of which was that towards the close of that monarch's reign, of the twenty newspapers published in Paris seventeen were hostile to the government, and to their united efforts may be traced the catastrophe which followed. Lord Palmerston was the first statesman in England who prominently availed himself of the power of the press; and to this much of his success in political life is owing. We may trace government influence in the tone of most of the London journals in favor of aristocracy; and from the funkyness prevalent among the anonymous journalists of England this influence is exerted with little difficulty. At the same time these newspaper writers, almost without exception, are opposed to aristocracy personally, and when they support it are merely bowing to a power they are unwilling to resist. It is for the reason that journalism is not entirely anonymous in the United States, as it is in England, that it partakes of a higher character, just as it does in France, where every newspaper article is acknowledged by its writer. Nevertheless, our government and politicians do not appear to have yet appreciated the merits of the independent American press. Accustomed, in the first instance, to merely party organs, they have not divested themselves of the ideas to which those organs necessarily give rise. But the importance of the press in matters of government is becoming daily more conspicuous, and it will soon earn for itself the title of the second instead of the fourth estate.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.—

Whilst Congress is wasting the precious hours of the session in the discussion of questions which belong to the executive business of the War Department, and the agitation of which can be of no sort of benefit at the present time, the financial affairs of the country are in a condition which excites the utmost anxiety and alarm. In another week the Treasury will be without a cent, and in financial and commercial business of every kind the prospect is fast precipitating matters towards a panic. Those who have anything to dispose of, and who can realize it, are investing the proceeds in gold or in foreign exchange, so as to be prepared for what seems inevitable. It is evident that, unless Congress acts speedily and energetically, not only will we be overtaken by a financial revulsion never than any we have as yet encountered, but the credit of the government will be destroyed, and our army, which is being brought into such fine condition, utterly demoralized. The issue of irredeemable paper money, so far from helping to extricate us from our embarrassments, will only render them less easy of solution. A nation that has recourse to such expedients is bent on suicide. In taxation alone can we find the means of providing for the burdens that the war imposes upon us. Every article of luxury, every deed or paper relating to the transfer of real or personal property, promissory notes and bills of exchange—everything, in short that is susceptible of being thus charged—should bear its proportion of them, in the form either of direct taxes or stamp duties. In this way a revenue of a couple of hundred millions could be raised to secure the interest on the heavy war debt that we are incurring, and to leave a large surplus to assist in providing for the wants of the government. If Congress is animated by the least sense of patriotism, and is desirous to spare the country the humiliation of an annihilated public credit, as well as the disgrace attending the triumph of the rebellion, it will at once apply itself to the adjustment of the taxation necessary to accomplish these objects. The country was never in a better condition to respond to the calls that will be thus made upon it, and it will be more cheerfully met than from the conviction now generally entertained, that they provide the only safe and legitimate remedy for the difficulties that are now crowding upon us.

An Important Literary Work.

We understand that a work, called "The Life and Times of James Buchanan," and written by the ex-President himself, is now printing, and will soon be published at Philadelphia. As Mr. Buchanan is as little noted for brevity as for wit, the book will probably be long winded and comprise several volumes. It is said to be very well written, very severe and sarcastic, and it pledges into Buchanan's own Cabinet in the roughest possible style. Its object is to prove that Mr. Buchanan is and always has been a true Union man.

The venerable politician and humbugged ex-President could not wait, it seems, until the grass grew over his grave to have his life written and his virtues and failings displayed. Perhaps he undertook the task himself because he distrusts and wishes to forestall the calm judgment of the country and the world. He might have spared himself the labor and the pens and ink, however, for the popular estimation of Mr. Buchanan is too well settled and too nearly right to be disturbed or altered by this antebellum attempt at self-justification. Just as there are sins of omission and sins of commission, so there is a treason in refraining from suppressing, as well as a treason in abetting and assisting a rebellion. Try as he will, Mr. Buchanan cannot defend himself from the charge of treasonable omissions of duty. There may be no evidence to show that he was a traitor in act and deed; but, Union man as he professes to be, there is ample evidence that he was a traitor in not acting, when, by a little courage and decision, he could have saved the Union, and that without a civil war.

It is beyond all question that the two administrations which preceded the present fostered and strengthened the rebellion, which had been concocted years ago, and gave it form and power. Jeff. Davis, now the chief of the rebels, was the master spirit of poor Pierce's Cabinet. He was the bully of the whole concern, and ruled the roost as he pleased. Cushing and the rest submitted to him almost without a murmur, and if Marcy now and then showed a little spunk he was soundly slapped upon his patched breeches, and soon subsided. Poor Pierce himself was a mere nincompoop, whose only ambition was to look nice and wear pretty pumps, and whose only talent was a knack of getting off a neat after dinner speech. Without the slightest mind of his own, he flattered like a feather in every breeze, and was pulled this way and that like a fancy dancing jack. Among such incapables Jeff. Davis was easily chief, and managed everything quite his own way. So, if the idea of a Southern confederacy was planted by Paul Calhoun, it was certainly watered by Apollon Pierce, and the administration of James Buchanan gave the treasonable increase.

For poor, shiftless, feeble Pierce was not half so bad as the imbecile and blundering Buchanan. In Pierce's Cabinet Jeff. Davis ruled; but in Buchanan's Cabinet Floyd, Cobb and Thompson played out boldly the game of rebellion and armed treason at the expense of the country. To these rogues and traitors Buchanan always gave way, and Toucey and the other professedly loyal members of the Cabinet were as weak and as thoroughly idiotic as the President himself. If Buchanan had been possessed of a particle of sagacity, common sense or power, the schemes of Floyd, Cobb and Thompson would have been detected and defeated. Or, even if Buchanan had been honestly humbugged up to the time of the secession of South Carolina, he could then have nipped rebellion in the bud and settled the whole matter in five weeks, if he had been endowed with a bit of pluck, capacity or courage. Had the HERALD's advice, to call out seventy-five thousand men and kick out the entire Cabinet, been followed in December, 1860, we should never have heard of treason in this country again.

But, through the feebleness of poor Pierce, and the cowardly imbecility of blundering Buchanan, the country has been brought to its present crisis. For either of them to attempt to prove himself a patriot now is to outrage all history and all reason. In not doing right, these men were guilty of doing wrong; for their criminal weakness was the strength of the rebellion.

HEALTH OF THE ARMY.—

We present this morning a highly interesting report on the sanitary features of our great volunteer army. So far the health of the troops has been in the main satisfactory. Unquestionably very much of the disease and suffering could have been averted by timely care, and more system on the part of the medical department of the army in furnishing medicines and hospital supplies. No one can doubt, on reading the report of the Sanitary Commission, that the labor of these gentlemen has been productive of much good. They report a most creditable alacrity on the part of the army officers in co-operating with them to relieve suffering and improve the health of the camps. We hope this report will be read far and wide by every officer in our forces, and particularly by every army surgeon and every commander of a regiment or a brigade. Timely attention to judicious sanitary rules will save more suffering than all medical attendance and care after the men are in hospital. Here, we may say, emphatically, that an ounce of prevention is worth five pounds of cure. We hope that no professional jealousy will stand in the way of the labors of the Commission, and that they may be furnished with abundant supplies to ward off suffering, save life and add to the vital strength of our gallant defenders. Many a battle has been lost solely in consequence of weakness and discouragement, brought on by a neglect of the health and efficiency of troops. The golden maxims of health with our volunteers lay in a few words, and prominent among these are cleanliness, good food, warm clothing, cheerfulness, activity and temperance. We hope our members of Congress will see what is said about sutlers, and the ill health and demoralization that spring from these heartless leeches.

Great praise is awarded, and more is due, to our noblehearted women for their efforts on behalf of the volunteers. We trust that the ladies committees in all of the cities, towns and villages throughout the country will continue their efforts, and continue to make the Sanitary Commission the almoners of their country. They can have no nobler example than the one shown by the daughter of old Ben. Franklin, and which called out such a gallant and charming letter from General Washington. Who can read without emotion the contributions of the "Widow Barber" and her family—the cheese, the warm stockings, and the copy of "Robinson Crusoe"—the Heaven's blessings, and the